

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of November 3, 2006 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 10 - 18 were examined. As a result of this examination, the status of the claims is as follows: (1) claims 10 - 18 are rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1 - 9 of U.S. Patent No. 7,021,149; and (2) claims 10 - 18 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) by Adams.

(1)

Regarding this rejection, submitted herewith is a terminal disclaimer with respect to Patent No. 7,021,149.

(2)

Regarding this rejection, applicant has carefully considered the Adams patent and respectfully traverses this rejection.

Adams essentially discloses a differential pressure transmitter, wherein dampers are provided as barriers between the sources of excess - pressure pulses and the pressure-sensitive element.

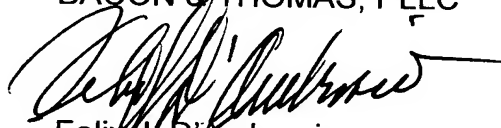
By contrast, the relative pressure sensor according to claim 10 does not provide a damper as a barrier between the source of the excess-pressure pulses and the pressure-sensitive element. Instead, the damper is provided behind the pressure-sensitive element, thereby providing a hydraulic backup against excess-pressure pulses. To make this distinction clear, claim 10 has been amended as noted above, whereby the damper is defined as situated only between the pressure-sensitive element and the second separating membrane, and protects the pressure-sensitive element against the effect of excess-pressure pulses acting on the first separating membrane

Column 6, lines 55 - 61 of Adams discloses venting the low pressure side to atmosphere, and keeping the damper on the high pressure side, if the differential pressure sensor is used as a guage pressure sensor (or relative pressure sensor). Hence, Adams is clearly occupied with the concept of barriers against excess-pressure pulses. Dams, it is respectfully submitted, teaches away from providing hydraulic backups instead of barriers. Accordingly, claim 10, and claims 11 - 18, which depend , directly or indirectly, from claim 10 are believed to patentably distinguish over Adams.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 10 - 18 found allowable.

Date: February 5, 2007

Respectfully submitted,
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC



Felix J. D'Ambrosio
Attorney for Applicant

Registration Number 25,721

Customer Number *23364*
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Telephone: (703) 683-0500
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

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